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FOSSUK AGM

I must say how much I enjoyed the FOSSUK Annual General Meeting in Manchester. I felt it was constructive and informative and, overall, well organised. I would like to see many future meetings held in different areas of the UK. But it strikes me that there are some fundamental issues which need attention. For one we should at last do something about a problem that FOSSUK committee members have been debating for years ... how to encourage **young** Swiss to join!

I think the answer is simple. Let's elect a young man or woman to the vacant Vice-Presidency of FOSSUK. Someone who has the necessary credentials. Tact, diplomacy and commercial experience. Intelligence and compassion for his/her compatriots. Plus the requisite youth, enthusiasm and organisational skills. My nomination is Eric Westacott (Midland Swiss Club). He has enough communication and marketing skills to enable him to encourage young Swiss in the UK to become involved in community activities. He may be inexperienced but with Jeff Long at the helm to guide him, that need not be a problem.

Now, to the AGM. The introduction to any meeting (reading of previous minutes, apologies for absence etc) and guests' speeches, should be kept to a minimum. A rigid agenda should only be kept to as long as enough time is allocated to an 'Open Forum'. Members must feel able to fire questions at the platform and to each other. Most

people I spoke to felt intimidated and hurried by the structure of the meeting. If there is no interaction we can only assume that the message has not come across.

My main criticism of the meeting, as one delegate's husband put it, was that it reminded one of a Conservative Party conference. Where there is no constructive disagreement during a meeting you can be sure that afterwards, in the bars and cafes and coaches, the assembled mass displays its dissension. Again this is the fault of the structure of the meeting and not of the individuals.

Provided we are able to accommodate the delegates, I think Eric's idea that the AGM should be held on the Saturday with a more relaxed, open forum on the Sunday is an excellent suggestion. This would give delegates minds (and tongues) an overnight period to loosen up and would, I am sure, encourage much more productive conversation and general involvement.

And I propose that each club or society should be encouraged to send TWO delegates. This would put them more at ease, affording 'rank-and-file' members an opportunity of finding out what FOSSUK is all about and promoting a feeling that they can have a real influence over matters arising.

I would be interested to receive your written comments, so PLEASE take the time to contact me.

Best wishes, Nick Miller

EMBASSY INFORMATION

Nationality: The Swiss Embassy in London would like to remind all Swiss living in the U.K. that any change in civil status (birth, marriage, divorce, death, should always be notified as soon as possible and be accompanied by a certified copy of the relevant official document. Abridged documents and photo-graphic copies even if signed by a solicitor, are not acceptable. The documents submitted will be translated, legalized and forwarded to Switzerland for registration in the commune of origin and remain filed there. They cannot be returned.

All these documents can be obtained, against payment of the appropriate fee, from the competent British Authority (Local Registrar) or general register office, county court or high court of justice). Failure to notify the Swiss Authorities may ultimately result in the loss of Swiss nationality.

New Passports: As explained to our readers in the white pages of our last issue, that only the new passport will be valid from 01/01/91. The Swiss Embassy appeals to everyone who is in need of a new Swiss Travel Document to make any travel arrangements well ahead. At least two weeks must be allowed for the new passport to be processed as the number issued will rise drastically. The Swiss Embassy thanks you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

Furthermore I should like to inform you that the Embassy is now equipped with an electronic labelling machine so that in future all addresses will be printed by computer and then labelled by machine. This will result in a much quicker and more efficient way of mailing the Swiss Review to the readers. A great achievement, indeed!

R. Fischer, Vice-Consul

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**NICK
MILLER**

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Swiss Clubs

Aberdeen Tel: 0224-732261 (Antoinette Wright)
Bristol Tel: 0454-775042 (Mrs Trudi Soper)
City of London Tel: 071-975 6002 (Dr Dittweiler)
Dunfermline Tel: 0383-723540 (Mrs U. Ditchburn)
Edinburgh Tel: 031-334 2430 (Mrs U. Ross)
Guernsey Tel: 0481-48188 (Mrs Ferbrache-Amman)
Liverpool Tel: 051-427 1816 (Mrs M. Moor)
Manchester Tel: 061-483 7727 (Jilli)
Midlands Tel: 021-631 4050 (Eric Westacott)
N. Ireland Tel: 0232-648239 (Hans Egli)
Swiss Rifle Assoc. Write to: Urs Schaefer
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Southern Tel: 0252-615149 (Marcel Gret)
South West Write to: Mrs Guppy
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Surrey Tel: 081-647 9630 (Mrs Heidi Miller)
Torbay Tel: 0803-842355 (Max Singer)
Tyne & Wear Tel: 091-536 1047
(Mrs Nelly Scott-Niederberger)
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Yorkshire Tel: 0274-588189 (Jeffrey Long)

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"La Causerie" Tel: 081-673 4955 (Annette Yucottier)
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Commission of the Swiss Abroad:
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Consistoire Tel: 081-346 8094 (Mrs E. Crack)
FOSSUK Tel: 071-727 4113 (Jeffrey Long)
1st August Committee Tel: 081-892 2512 (Mr V Berti)
Frauenverein Tel: 081-422 3545 (Mrs Laskowski)
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4 Victoria Crescent, Clarkston, Glasgow G16 8BP
Swiss Benevolent Society
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1991 - A Great Opportunity

by Mariann Meier

At the annual general meeting of the Federation in Manchester - only the third time outside London in its 40 years of existence - representatives of over 3 dozen member societies and many friends had a chance of a stimulating get-together.

One of the visitors from Switzerland, Dr Rudolf Wyder, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne, revealed a new plan which was most welcome news: The "Review" is at present sent to some 12,000 Swiss households in the U.K. four times a year. In future, this could be increased to six issues per annum, or perhaps even more.

Communication has always been an important concern of the Organisation of Swiss Abroad. Following a general enquiry in 1965 among Swiss societies abroad, a special commission was formed in 1967 to study the subject. In 1978, the whole Assembly of Swiss Abroad at Einsiedeln was devoted to the subject.

Swiss nationals abroad get their information on what happens at home from various sources. Few are able to subscribe to a Swiss daily or get the Swiss Shortwave Service (Radio Swiss International). Some countries have their own papers, like the Swiss in France and Italy. And, of course, we had the "Swiss Observer" from 1919 to 1984.

Soon after the Organisation of Swiss Abroad came into being during World War 1, they published the "Echo", an illustrated monthly magazine (by subscription). They also issued a very instructive small magazine "Der Weltschweizer" throughout the sixties until the mid-seventies. This was sent free to any young Swiss up to the age of 25.

The special commission on information carried on until 1985. As a member throughout, I was aware of the great efforts to keep the Swiss abroad informed. The confederation showed great understanding, and thanks to their considerable engagement, the "Review" was born in 1973. It is sent free of charge to all Swiss registered at

Embassies and Consulates the world over, in German, French, Italian and Spanish. It has been a great success. But sadly, there were dire consequences. I had to witness the death of the "Echo" at the end of 1980, also the "Weltschweizer" and finally in November 1984, the "Swiss Observer". For several years, the "Review" had been incorporated in the "Swiss Observer" four times a year.

The "Review" has "green pages" for every country, these are meant for news about societies and generally what happens in the community. The snag is that in a periodical which appears only every three months, reports of society events and items like deaths etc. are rather out of date by the time they appear. It is also difficult to have up-to date "forthcoming events" as the "Swiss Observer" used to carry.

This is why Dr Wyder's revelations that the "Review" would appear more frequently is so important. For it will enable societies to send short reports on past and future events, and it will make it possible for members of the Federation (FOSSUK) to get better acquainted with one another. Individual readers will be able to find out what happens in the community.

That is why in 1991 will be such a special opportunity for the Swiss abroad to keep in touch with events at home and in their own communities. FOSSUK is much involved in the preparations of several events in G.B. With the largest proportion of Swiss citizens resident in London and surroundings, it is inevitable that the biggest event should be held there. It will be a large get-together in Battersea Park on Saturday, 29th June. In several marquees and tents, entertainment will be provided, and every age and inclination will be catered for. More details will be given later. But please make a note in your family diary.

Yes, 1991 - a great year of encounter in many respects.

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TWO

29th June 1991



Battersea Swiss Fair

Do you wish to meet Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi ? We are honoured to have him as the main speaker. Would you like to play Jass with Anton Mosimann ? Do you yearn for a Bratwurst, a Raquette or a Ticinese Risotto ? Would you enjoy meeting Swiss Artists ?

Come to Battersea Park for FOSSUK's event of the year, the 700th Anniversary Swiss Fair ! ... Where **all Swiss Citizens** living in the United Kingdom, their **British friends** and **their guests** from abroad will be welcome.

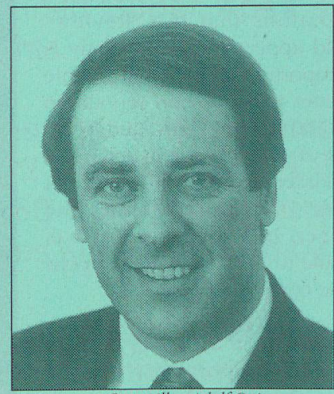
In various marquees you will find the the people you are looking for ... present and former au-pair girls, now married and living in the U.K. or Switzerland ... old friends you may not have met for ages ... present and

former students of the Swiss Mercantile College like Mr. Ogi ... a famous Swiss brass band and a well-known folk-music group ... young compatriots prepared to entertain and look after your children.

Entrance fees and prices for food and drink will be modest so that everybody can have a memorable day. Coach trips to London will be organised by Swiss Societies all over the country.

There will be a number of "fringe events" like ... shooting at Bisley on Sunday 30th June, when several teams from Switzerland will compete against the Swiss Rifle Association ... a special Church Service at Endell Street on Sunday, where, it is hoped, you will be able to meet former ministers of the church and members of VEGSIL now living in Switzerland ... FOSSUK's 26th Annual General Meeting.

How can you help us now to make Battersea Swiss Fair a great success ? ...



Councillor Adolf Ogi

If you are prepared to accommodate compatriots coming to London for a night or two, please write to: Mrs Edith Crack, 45 Church Crescent, London N3 ... **Inform** all your friends and relatives in the U.K. and abroad and invite them to Battersea. If you are willing to help in any other way, (catering, games, music etc.), please contact **Mr Jeffrey Long, President of FOSSUK, 115 Ladbroke Road, London W11 3PR.**

In the December issue of the Swiss Review you will learn more about the programme, other guests and performers.

FOSSUK Banquet

As part of it's contribution to the 700th Anniversary celebrations, FOSSUK is to hold a Banquet and Ball at London's Hilton Hotel, Park Lane W1, on Saturday 9th March 1991. In deference to the occasion, dress is limited to 'black tie' (dinner dress) or Swiss national costume.

After FOSSUK's highly successful Annual General Meeting held in Manchester in June, the 1991 event will again be held in London. Although it was suggested that future meetings may be held in other parts of the country it seemed sensible to hold the 26th AGM in the same weekend as the Battersea Park Swiss Fair. The venue is yet to be announced.

Full details will appear in our next issue, or from FOSSUK direct.

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Party Line

On **Saturday June 30th** the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Muheim gave a buffet-lunch at their residence for Swiss artists living in the UK.

The response was enthusiastic. About 80 people from many different artistic fields attended, some coming from as far away as Scotland or Devon.

As Ambassador Muheim mentioned in his speech, the aim of this gathering was for him and his wife to meet Swiss artists and at the same time enable them to compare experiences with one another. This opportunity was greatly appreciated by all the guests. Lively discussions took place in an animated atmosphere, ideas were exchanged, old friendships renewed and new ones made, groups formed and contacts for joint projects established.

The party was a great success and the guests were reluctant to leave. They unanimously expressed the hope that another such get-together could be held.

The Embassy would like to ask all UK-based Swiss artists who did not receive an invitation to get in touch with its Cultural Section.

Notice to Swiss artists ...

Since the above event, **Dorian Keller**, A Swiss painter living in London, has been encouraged by Ambassador and Madame Muheim to get in touch with the other Swiss artists living in the U.K.

The purpose is to see whether an **exhibition including both visual and performing arts** can be arranged on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the Confederation.

If you are interested please contact:
Dorian Keller
19 Cheyne Place London SW3 4HJ.

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THREE*

Marathon Effort

In March of this year, as the majority of us were emerging slowly from our Sunday morning slumber, tens of thousands of enthusiastic roadrunners were pounding the streets from Blackheath to Westminster in the ADT London Marathon. 27 miles later, thousands of deserving charities were millions of pounds the better off thanks to the considerable efforts of the competitors. More often than not the more unusual runners and bizarre outfits leave a more lasting impression than the names of those sturdy enough to be first across the finishing line.

Amongst the entrants was **Walter Imthurn**, a Swiss resident in London, who collected a staggering £12,500 in aid of the **International Spinal Research Trust**. Whilst we would all rightly join in admiration of his remarkable efforts, Walter's 19-year-old fellow countryman **Carlo Tresch**, must be especially proud. Carlo, who attended the presentation of the cheque to the ISRT, suffered severe paralysis after a skiing accident.

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SUISSE

Ken
Johnson

The Editor writes: *"In the interest of impartiality, and with something of a vested interest in family unity, I thought it best not to report personally upon the affairs of Surrey's popular and ever-expanding Swiss Club. In my place, ace reporter Ken Johnson selflessly played insider, consumed bratwurst, and enjoyed a fine evening ... with my mum and her many friends!"*

A Surrey Tale

Saturday 28th July was the third time my wife and I had driven from South East London Baulthurst Farm just outside Limsfield. The humidity of the day had given way to a delightfully warm yet slightly breezy evening and we were looking forward again to a get together at the Surrey Swiss Club.

We sat - all 120 of us - outside the farmhouse, in a large walled garden, on collapsible chairs which guests had brought, and on long comfortable bales of hay thoughtfully provided by owners of the farm, Jeff Harris and his charming wife Marianne.

All ages were represented, from between two and sixteen, to some in their seventies. At the top end of the garden a crackling bonfire attracted many. One group was busily frying bratwurst and other sausages, whilst some gazed into the fierce flames and deepening bed of grey ash. A queue formed outside an adjacent shed and were served with cold drinks and hot sausages in crusty rolls.

The smell of fire, the aromas of the sausages, matched somehow the sweet Surrey air. It was very pleasant sitting around, talking and breathing in these country smells. I thought, as I looked around at these happy people, how easy it is to take for granted those who give so much of their time to put functions like this together. They really help to make the world go round without thought of any reward.

There's Heidi Miller, who formed the club four years ago, and who, whenever I see her, always seems to be thinking of and working at ways to make the clubs even

better in the years ahead. And there are Marianne and Jeff Harris. And others... As the light began to fade, children lit the candle in their lampions, and filed solemnly out of the garden and around the adjoining field. As we watched their brightly lit return, fireworks flared colourfully and cracked and banded in the darkening sky.

Then the hum of conversation drifted into silence as Consul Albert Mehr took his place by a radio recorder set up in the centre of the garden. Even the crackle of the reddening fire seemed to die down.

We knew that the Swiss National Anthem would commence the proceedings and every one joined in with pride. I am not Swiss and so, perhaps, have a degree of detachment at meetings of Swiss expatriates. It is therefore with absolutely sincerity I can record how impressive is the love of the Swiss for their motherland. Then came a short recorded speech by the president of Switzerland followed by the Consul's address.

Mr Mehr's theme was the advancement of Swiss co-operation at home and abroad after the style of solidarity. He emphasised also fraternal warmth amongst Swiss compatriots and towards their hosts. He complimented all those who had helped to organise the running of the Surrey Swiss Club, and ended his address to considerable applause.

As we drove away from the warmth and light and friendliness of Baulthurst Farm, I thought how relaxed it had been for everyone. I think Stefan Gerschatter says it all by giving up a favourite boy scout gathering to be at Baulthurst Farm.

Some of the members of Surrey Swiss Club in traditional and festive mood.



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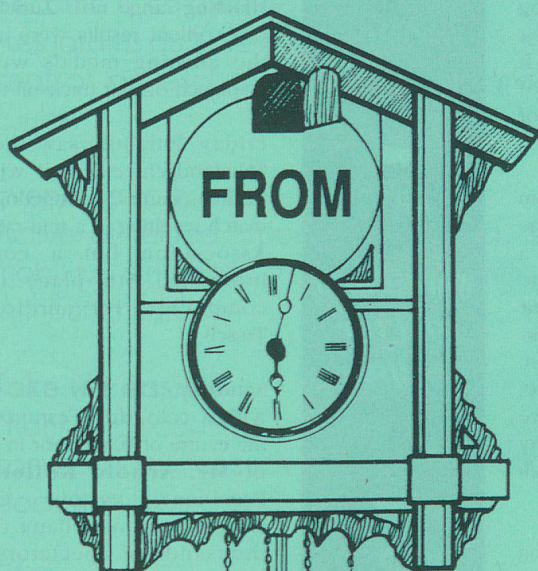
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New Heights

In 1990 the Wordsworth Trust celebrates the centenary of the purchase of Dove Cottage to provide a memorial to the poet 'for lovers of poetry from all over the world'. These celebrations include a major exhibition - **Wordsworth and the Alps** - representing six of the greatest watercolourists of the Eighteenth century who drew the Alps.

There are seventeen works by **J.M.W. Turner** and the same number from two of his most accomplished predecessors, **John R. Cozens** and **Francis Towne**. The latter went through the Alps in 1781 accompanied by a fine Cumbria-born artist, **John 'Warwick' Smith**. There will be a substantial collection of Smith's work in the exhibition. **William Pars**, who drew so precisely with the eye of a scientist recording data, and **Samuel Hieronymus Grimm**, the Swiss Artist who migrated to England, make up the sextet of artists.

All their work will be set in the context of Wordsworth's astonishing journey when, aged twenty, he left Cambridge with his friend Robert Jones and walked 1200 miles through France and the Alps. It was his passion for mountain scenery and his ambition to experience the sublime for himself that drove Wordsworth to this ambitious undertaking.

The paintings will be supplemented by major loans from the library of the Alpine Club; Aberdeen Art Gallery, the Ashmolean, Oxford; Birmingham City Art Gallery; the British Museum; the Fitzwilliam Museum; Cambridge, National Portrait Gallery; the Scottish National Portrait Gallery; the Tate

Gallery; the Victoria and Albert Museum; and Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester.

Dr. Robert Woof, Director of the Trust, commented: 'The Trustees have been fortunate in having great loans to support their exhibitions in the past; but never has there been such a dazzling display of certain artists working at their peak as are found in this exhibition. It is perhaps the largest collection of Alpine pictures, largely the work of Englishmen, ever brought together.'

Wordsworth and the Alps will run from 26th July - 18th November. To mark the closing of the exhibition, there will be a special celebratory weekend, open to both scholar and layman alike - **The Alps: Poets, Painters and Travelers**. Speakers will include Michael Kitson, Director of the Paul Mellon Centre, David Blayney Brown of the Clore Gallery at the Tate, and Anthony Kenny, President of the British Academy.

As *Wordsworth and the Alps* opened on 26th July, so the international Wordsworth Summer Conference opened at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Grasmere. Speakers at the Conference included the Rt. Hon. Michael Foot MP.

Richard Wordsworth, great-great-grandson of the poet, founder and once again Director of the Conference, commented: 'It is the twentieth year of the Conference and the hundredth year of the Trust and we wish to express our sense of delight in what the poet and his contemporaries have left to us to enjoy, and to pass on that sense to future generations'

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UK

←
ARTS

Wordsworth and the Alps

→
IN SIGHT

*by Urs Schaefer,
Swiss Rifle Association*

In July of this year, over 90,000 Swiss took part in the 53rd "**Eidg. Schuetzenfest**", held at various ranges all over Switzerland and in Swiss communities overseas. The Swiss Rifle Association, London, actively took part with a team of 12 shooters at the excellently prepared Duebendorf shooting range near Zurich. A number of excellent results were achieved and the ensuing medals were proudly displayed on our tracksuit tops.

Friday 20th July saw the dedicated "Auslandschweizertag" with 22 teams from 16 countries competing in a special match resulting in a mid-ranking for our Association but a commendable individual 5th place out of 273 competitors for our treasurer Joe Tresch.

Saturday, 21st July. The Official Day with a colourful "Festumzug" through the centre of Winterthur in the presence of **Mr. Arnold Koller** the Swiss President, various Government Ministers, a miscellany of VIP's and thousands of spectators lining the procession route. Societies, Associations, Groups and Clubs of every description took part, many in costume, all bearing flags and banners. In traditional British style, wearing dark suits, bowler hats, carrying brollies and the Financial Times, we proudly marched the route with two members in genuine Beefeater costumes, all of which was shown live by Swiss TV.

Next year, as part of the 700th Anniversary celebrations in London a return match has been accepted by the president of the "Feldschuetzen Wileroltigen". We all look forward to returning their hospitality.

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